

June 11, 1999

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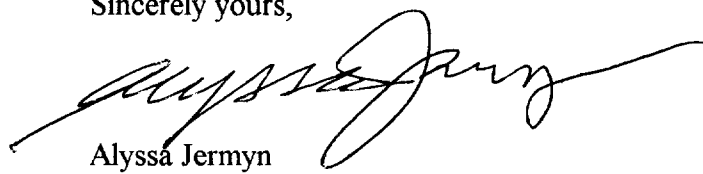
Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

The World Health Organization recommends a ban on the use of medically important antibiotics to promote animal growth. The United States should also adopt this position. In reading the Union of Concerned Scientists Summer 1999 Bulletin we noted that they have cosigned a Center for Science in Public Interest petition to your agency to withdraw approvals for the use of medically important antibiotics to promote growth in animals. Further, the groups states that withdrawal of the drugs for growth promotion would still allow their use in sick animals.

With the rising concern for resistant strains of bacteria, it is important to ban antibiotics when there are safer alternatives. We strongly support the World Health Organization and the Union of Concerned Scientists in their stand, and hope that you will withdraw the necessary approvals for use of such antibiotics to promote growth in animals.

Sincerely yours,



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